
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

As a result of the present amendment, claims 1-18 and 20 are presented in the case for continued prosecution. These claims have been allowed by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

B. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 19 AND 21

The Examiner has made various rejections of claims 19 and 21. Applicants have cancelled the claims, thereby rendering all rejections moot.

C. FEES

This response is being filed within the shortened period for response. No further fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that any further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to deposit account 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

D. CONCLUSION

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each issue raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

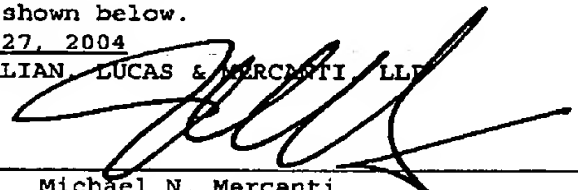
Respectfully submitted,

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<p>CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this document is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner of Patents on the date shown below. <u>July 27, 2004</u> MUSERLIAN, LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP  BY: _____ Michael N. Mercanti</p>
